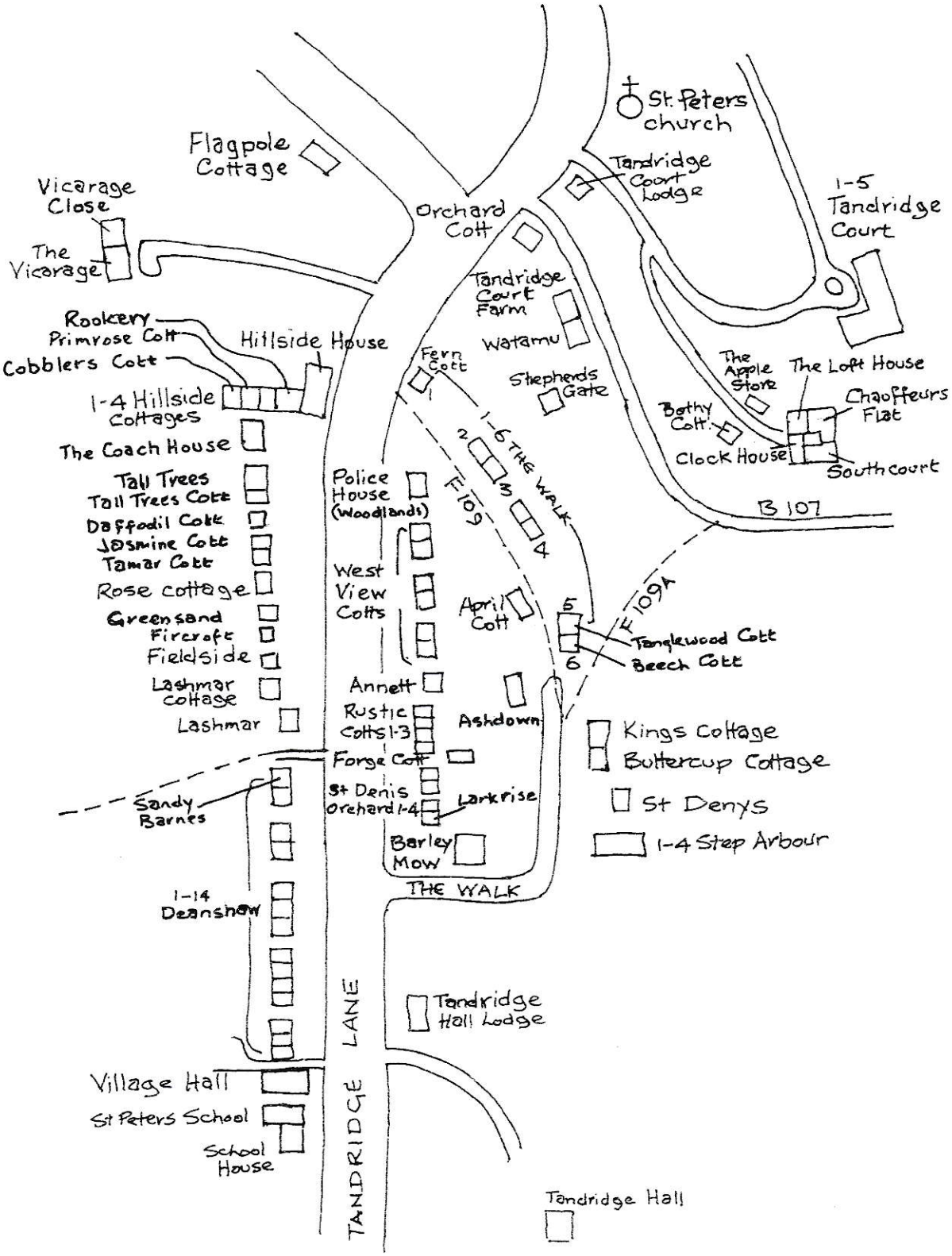
The Parish of TANDRIDGE

TANDRIDGE CHURCH

The Village of Tandridge



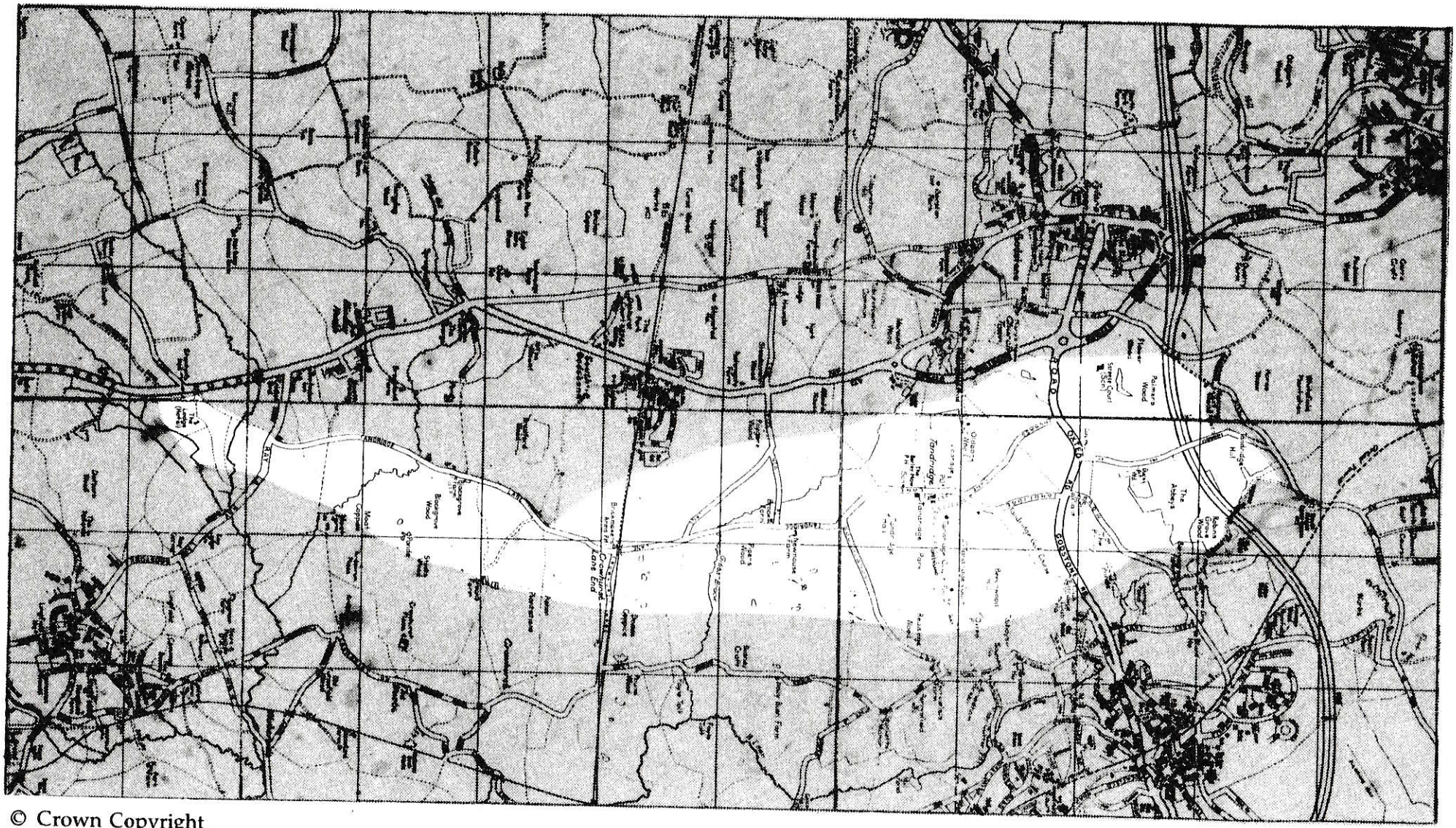
Introduction

This booklet has been produced by Tandridge Parish Council on the occasion of its centenary in 1994, in the hope that it will be of interest and use to its residents and to visitors.

For the sake of brevity and clarity, many less important details have had to be omitted both from the maps and from the histories; we have tried, however, to be as accurate as possible and to present all the essential information for an overall view of the nature and background of our parish.

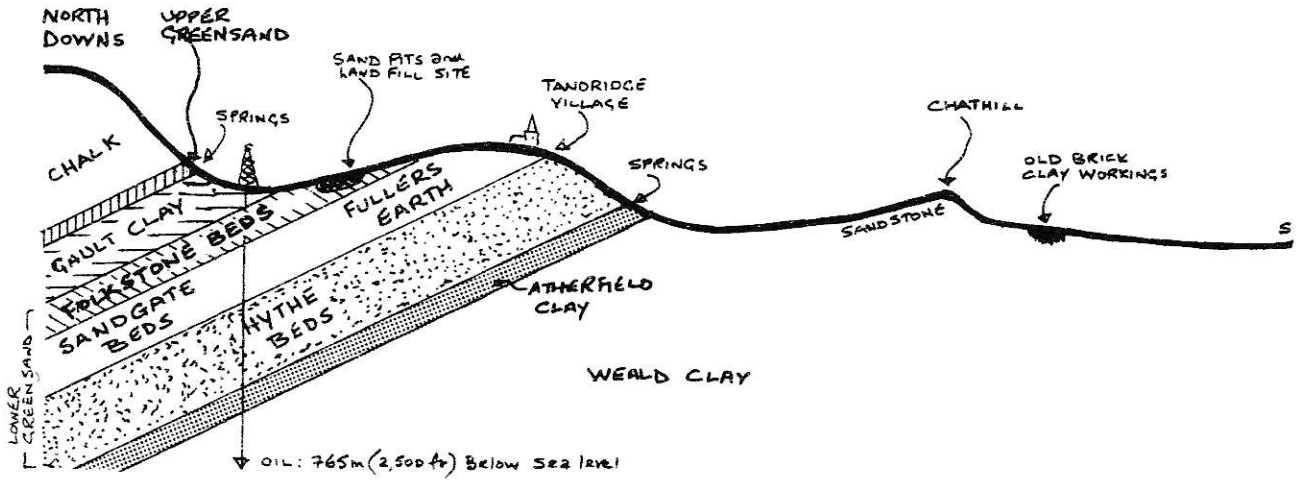
Chathill Cottages from footpath 240 near Miles Lane

Contents



The Parish and the Land

Tandridge is a small rural parish approximately 6 miles long and rarely more than 1 mile wide lying just south of the London basin to the east of the A22. A cross section through the parish from north to south takes you from just below the ridge 220m (740 ft.) high of the North Downs chalk escarpment, across the Gault clay and the M25, up the gentle dip slope of the Greensand ridge 125m (410 ft.), then down its scarp face to the generally flatter lands of the Weald clay 75m (245 ft.) which extends beyond the parish boundaries that lie south of the B2029 Ray Lane 50m (165 ft.), and including a small part of the damp grassland of Blindley Heath site of special scientific interest. The Wealden plain is interrupted by the sandstone ridge of Chathill which runs across the parish about a mile south of the village.



The village of Tandridge, by far the largest of several groups of houses and the only 'village', tumbles gently down the southern face of the Greensand ridge nestling in a fold largely protected from the prevailing south westerlies and further shielded from cold north easterly winds by the high ground occupied by Tandridge Golf Club.

The varied geology of the northern part of the parish has lent itself to a variety of uses and the valley between the two ridges contains the two major east/west roads – the A25 and M25 traversing Surrey. These two roads carry up to 150,000 vehicles per day and are perhaps our most unwelcome residents. Indeed, the demands of modern transport, by traffic, rail and aircraft, have resulted in much more intrusive levels of noise throughout the length of the parish over the last twenty years.

Close by the motorway there are productive small oil wells pumping from porous sandstone neary 3,000 ft. down. East Surrey Water Company abstracts water from the aquifers of the lower Greensand and the sand is quarried for asphalt and building purposes between the two major roads.

The subsequent filling of the quarries with rubbish from London has raised fears of pollution and the flared-off gas is visible, and will be, for

many years, day and night.

The central section of the Greensand, the Sandgate beds, contain one of the largest deposits of a clay known as fuller's earth (calcium montmorillonite) in Britain. Workable reserves lie beneath most of the open land between the village and the A25, and the grey/green clay outcrops just north of the church. Further deposits probably underlie the golf course and extend east towards Old Oxted. However, plans to exploit the fuller's earth by strip-mining have not been permitted, not least because the main use is for cat litter! The proposals would have devastated the landscape, and the magnificent horse chestnut and lime avenue of Little Court Farm would have been lost. There were fears also for the yew tree and the structure of the church.

The village stretches from the church and its famous yew tree, which lie just outside the built-up area on the sandy ridge, past the forge and the Barley Mow public house and restaurant down to the school, which sits on the edge of the Wealden clay. In previous times the clay was used for brickmaking at Crowhurst Lane End, ceasing in 1914. Springs emerge at the junction of the permeable sand and impermeable clay. Surprisingly there are a number of quite shallow wells in the upper part of the village relying on water trapped by the fuller's earth and the generally impermeable Sandgate beds. Several small tributaries of the Eden flow west to east across the parish to the south but there is no significant open water, other than the narrow lake at Streete Court School and the old ponds at Tandridge Priory.

The parish is well protected by planning legislation with the chalk ridge forming part of the nationally important Surrey hills 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', and the entire parish falls within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Nevertheless Tandridge attracts the attentions of developers and land speculators particularly where there has been fragmentation of larger agricultural holdings.

However, despite recent cut backs in production the majority of the parish is still in agricultural use. Well drained light soils on the Greensand contrast with the heavier soils of the Weald. Sheep, cereals, dairy and beef cattle all feature, and the yellow blaze of rape and the gentler blue of linseed paint the landscape in turn.

Happily, therefore, Tandridge still maintains its essential rural character and we hope that it will continue to present its well-farmed appearance for years to come.

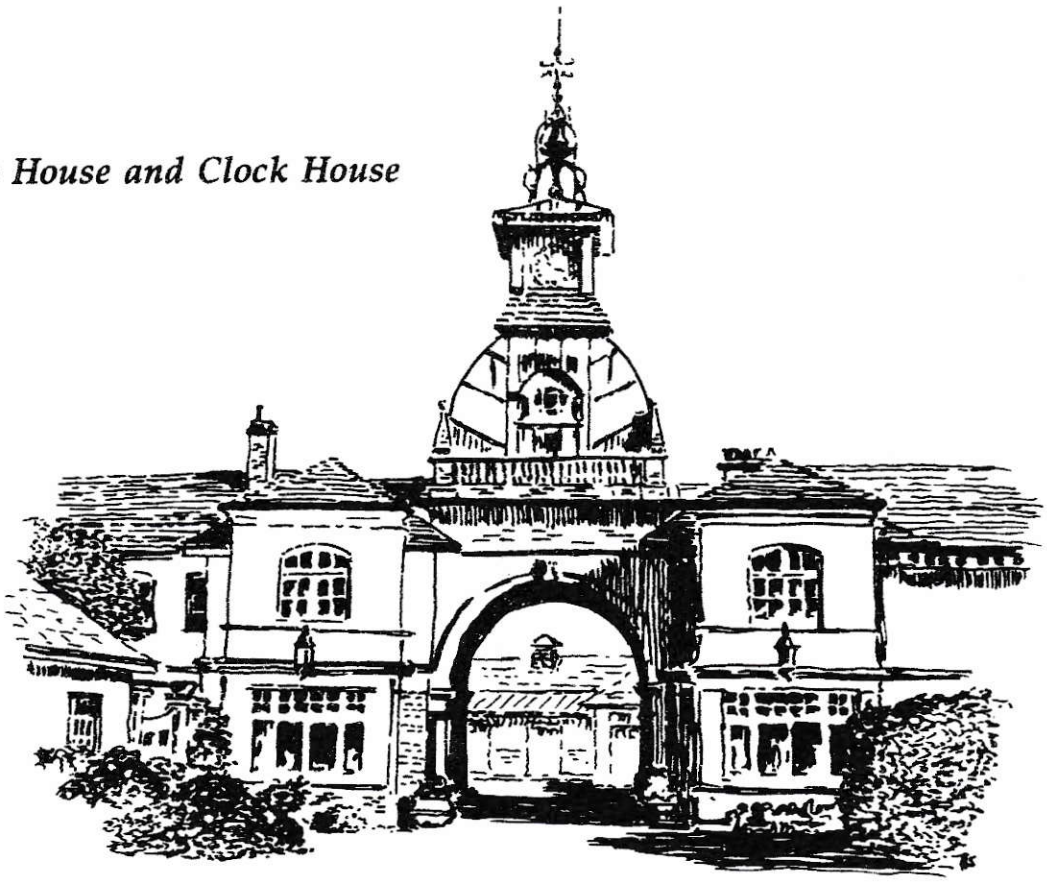
Tandridge and History

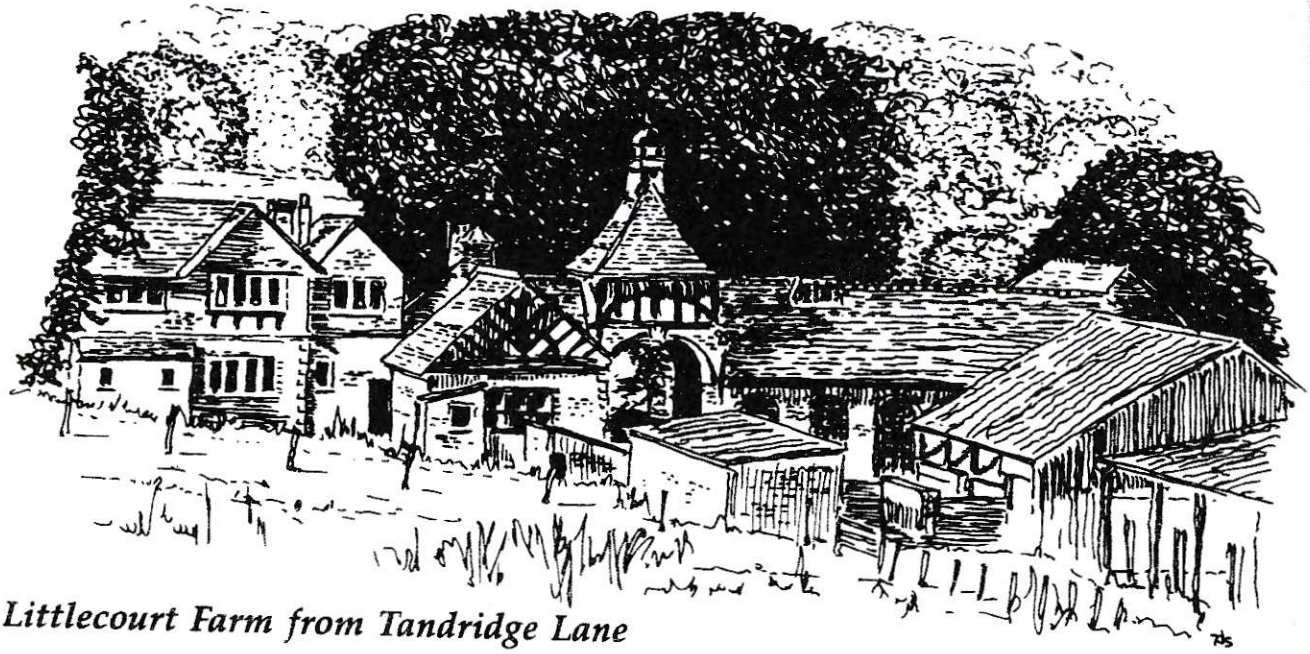
Although no evidence has been found of prehistoric activity, Tandridge must have been quite important in Anglo-Saxon times, before the Norman Conquest, in giving its name to one of the thirteen Hundred districts into which Surrey was divided; and the same title has also been adopted by the present District Council which covers very largely the same administrative area. No records or material traces of this early period remain, however, and even the origin of the place-name is an unsolved problem.

The only obvious survival is the Hundreds Knoll, now marked by a small memorial set on the north side of the Godstone road, to the west of Tandridge Hill Lane, as the meeting place of the open-air Hundreds Courts that were held there from Anglo-Saxon days until the 18th century. Although the Normans gradually introduced a more formal system of justice, the Courts continued in existence for certain civil purposes and the Hundreds Knoll is recorded as still being used for the election of constables and other local officials in 1720.

The Domesday Book survey of 1086 showed the area much reduced in wealth in the period immediately after 1066 and most probably, together with other local villages, Tandridge was adversely affected by the passage of the Norman army through Surrey. Even before 1066, however, the neighbouring communities at Oxted and Godstone were already starting to become more important, and Tandridge never re-assumed its former

Loft House and Clock House





Littlecourt Farm from Tandridge Lane

significance. Situated as it is, away from a major roadway, the intervening centuries have passed it by and Tandridge remains today as a pleasant hillside village overlooking the Weald in a completely rural parish.

The most important building listed as being of historic architectural interest (Grade I) is the church of St. Peter, at the northern end of the village. Although, perhaps surprisingly, no church was mentioned here in Domesday Book, a church was recorded at Tillingdown near Caterham on land under the same feudal holding as Tandridge and, as there is no other evidence of a church there, it was possibly meant to be the one at Tandridge.

The earliest part of the existing structure dates from around 1100 A.D., and the surviving Norman window and priest's door in the chancel, which is curiously skewed, are said to be much the oldest of nine or ten similar in Surrey. The church was partially rebuilt two centuries later, with repairs in 1616; a south aisle was added in 1844, and the North aisle formed part of a substantial restoration undertaken by the great Victorian architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott, in 1874 when the dormer windows were inserted. The most notable feature of the church is the massive oak beam structure supporting the bell tower which, like the original roof timbers to both chancel and nave, was put in position around 1300 A.D.

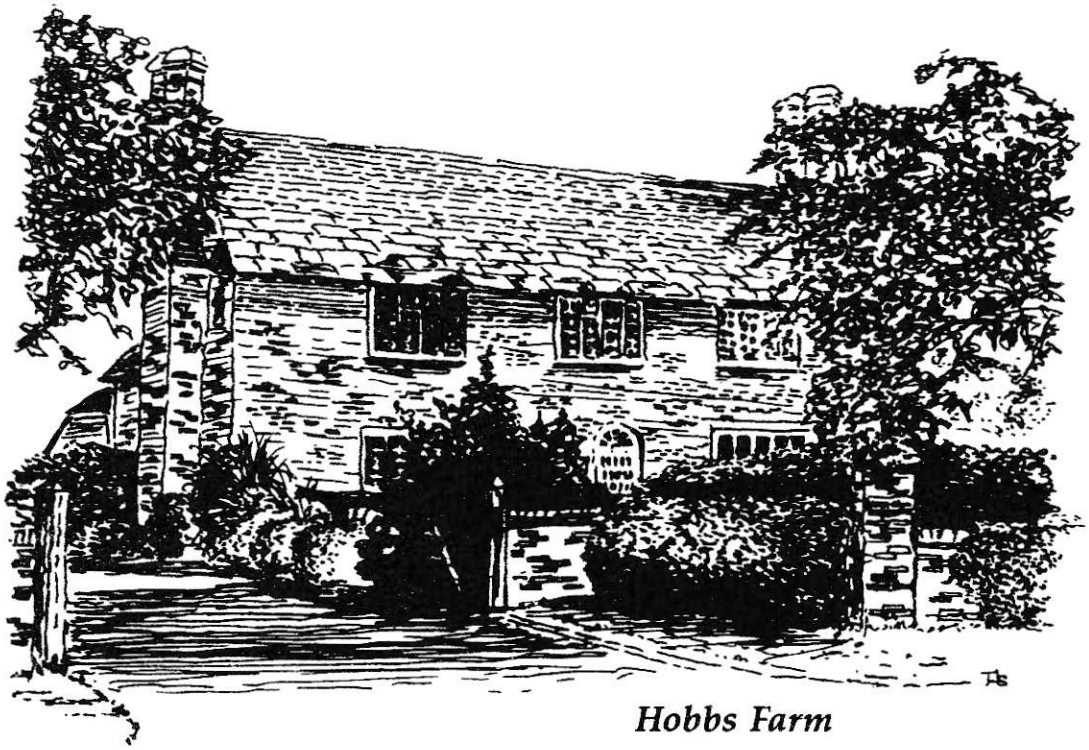
By the west of the church stands the ancient Tandridge yew tree which, in company with that at Crowhurst, is regarded as one of the oldest and largest in Britain. One can only guess at its age – and guesses have differed widely – but in any case we can certainly say that it has seen the passing of many centuries.

Tandridge Priory in Barrow Green Road is another listed building from the 17th century, built near the site of a small Augustinian priory founded about 1200 A.D. out of a slightly earlier Hospital of St. James, its purpose being for the support of the poor, the sick and travellers needing refuge. The old priory and all its stones have completely disappeared, and only its chain of fishponds, for food on meatless days, remains. Being small, the

priory was one of the earliest to be included in Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, and it was granted by him together with much other local land held by the priory to a certain John Rede in exchange for the estate of Oatlands, at Weybridge, which was coveted by the King. John Rede's son and heir, however, sold off the priory properties to other local landowners in the 1570s.

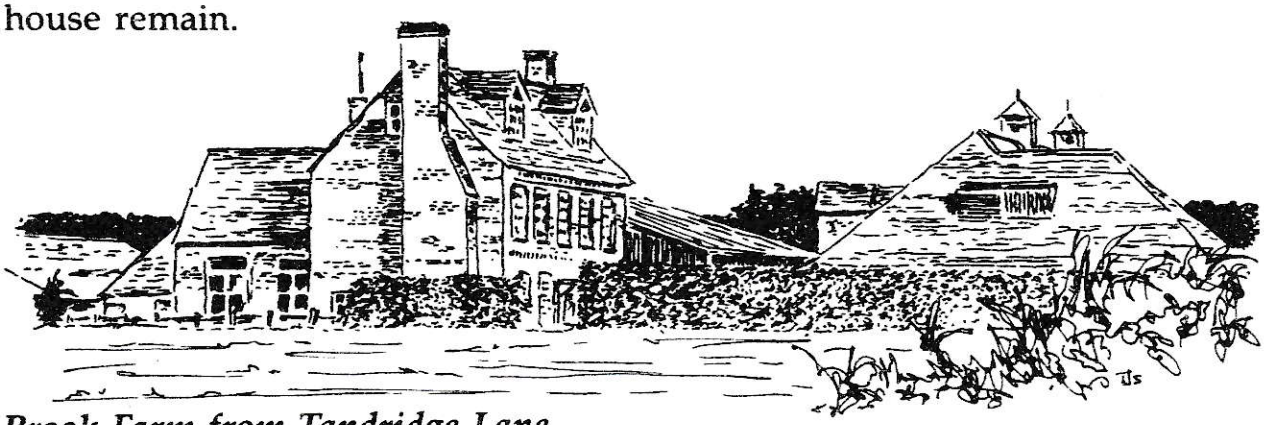
The remaining listed buildings in Tandridge, moving from north to south, and showing the principal century of construction rather than the date of origin of the site, include Streete Court School (1775), formerly known as Rooks Nest. From 1870 to 1876 it was the home of Sir George Gilbert Scott, who designed St. Pancras station and the Albert Memorial as well as the alterations to Tandridge and Godstone churches. The house, however, was renamed Ouborough in 1928 by the new owner, Mr J.V. Rank, of the well-known milling company. Mrs Rank was a notable breeder of Great Dane dogs and initiated the kennels that are still an active business in Tandridge Hill Lane.

Flagpole Cottage and nos. 1 & 2 Step Arbour date from the 17th century, and Southlands, another major house now subdivided, from the late 18th century, whilst the lodges to both Southlands and Tandridge Hall were built in the early 19th century. Newhouse Farm and the adjacent barn are from the late 18th century, Brook Farm house from 1740, and Brook Cottage from the 17th century. Old Hall Farm is described as 16th century, Hobbs Farm as of the 15th century, with its barn of mid-18th century, whilst the Red Barn public house, formerly called Snout's Farm, is a 15th century hall house with an adjacent barn from the late 17th century. Hobbs Farm and the Red Barn are, indeed, the oldest surviving houses in Tandridge and after the church have the highest rating for listed buildings (Grade II*).



Hobbs Farm

Although not listed, Tandridge Hall is another ancient residence. A drawing from 1800 shows it as a Tudor mansion, described by John Aubrey in his *History of Surrey,* written in 1673 as 'a fair brick house'. This was then much altered by Joseph Wilks in the early 19th century to become a large Georgian residence in the style of Southlands which he also acquired and began to enlarge. It suffered the misfortune of being considerably destroyed by an accidental fire when occupied by Canadian troops during the 1939-45 war, so that few traces of the Tudor or Georgian house remain.



Brook Farm from Tandridge Lane

Neither is Tandridge Court a listed building; like the other principal houses in Tandridge it rarely enjoyed the benefit of continuous residence by the owning family, and even in 1351, soon after the Black Death of 1348-49, when it was situated in the area now covered by Clock House and adjoining houses, it was noted as being in disrepair. The Wilks brothers, Joseph and Mathias, were very active in the purchase of local mansions, and apart from Joseph's dealing with Southlands and Tandridge Hall, Mathias also bought and sold Rooks Nest and built a new Tandridge Court in 1811 on its present site. From 1834 to 1896 it was in the hands of the Pepys family, a member of which, Charles Christopher Pepys, after a distinguished legal career and being Lord Chancellor, became the Earl of Cottenham in 1850. Although probably not residing himself at Tandridge, and being buried at Totteridge, the west window of the church is a memorial to him, and all subsequent Earls and families have continued to have their tombs in Tandridge churchyard.

By 1926 the house, again possibly in need of restoration, was very substantially rebuilt by Mr Edward Andreae. Before the first world war the Tandridge Court estate comprised 2,200 acres, but is now limited to 14 acres, and the building is divided into five separate houses.

During the whole of the 18th century much of Tandridge and parts of Bletchingley were in the ownership of the Clayton family of Marden Park (now the site of Woldingham School). Sir Robert Clayton, who built the original late 17th century mansion at Marden Park, was a successful City financier, being Lord Mayor in 1679, and there is a very fine monument for him and his wife in the church at Bletchingley. Two centuries later, another family owning Marden Park, the Greenwells (also successful in the City of London) bought the Tandridge Court estate in 1918, and although

selling the house and park to Mr Andreae, they continued to hold much land in Tandridge until 1940, when it was acquired by the Marquess of Northampton's Compton family trust.

Mention should also be made of the Hampden Turner family who owned the extensive Rooksnest estate on the west side of the village from 1817 to 1928, and who at various times also occupied Leigh Place and Tandridge Priory. As patrons of the living at Tandridge they added the south aisle to the church, built the vicarage, provided for the building of the school and village institute, and erected a flagpole on the green, around which the schoolchildren would sing patriotic songs on Empire Day.

Pride of place, however, for continuity and permanence here must be held by the Young family who have farmed land in and around Tandridge for over 400 years.

The people of Tandridge were not always well-behaved; in 1533 Sir John Gainsford of Crowhurst reported to Henry VIII's minister, Thomas Cromwell that 'within these two years more unthrifty deeds have been done in the Hundred of Tandridge than have been done in the whole shire'. By the days of James I firmer control was being exercised; Bostock Fuller, whose family occupied Tandridge Court during the whole of the 17th century, secured a small place in our local history with his notes as a Surrey J.P., now in the Bodleian Library. Justice was fairly rough in those days, and his papers mention a hanging and a branding for men who stole livestock, and whipping for vagrants. '3rd June, 1608 – Richard Jenkyns and Susan, his wife, were taken vagrant here and because he knew not certeynely where he was borne I caused them to be whipt.' 15th April, also 1608, 'I caused two stout rogues called Mary Rendoll, a widow, and Anne Marks, a wife, to be whipped at Tandridge and sent to Rawlyns in Essex'. The poor were a charge on the parish and so it was thought prudent to discourage the homeless from appearing outside their native parishes. Poaching rabbits (a luxury meat in those days) seems to have been the most widespread offence, and serious enough to merit trial at the

The Red Barn

The Barley Mow

formal sessions court. Bostock Fuller's area reached from Titsey across to Reigate, so few of his cases came from our own parish.

Some pressing problems of law and order, however, still remained in 1789 when the parish overseers agreed to erect a cage and stocks – immediately.

Old maps reveal interesting changes. An estate map of Tandridge Court from 1762 in the county archives shows a very irregularly shaped football field alongside the Godstone road, and a more extensive Flagpole Green surrounding a pond, which is now an overgrown depression at the northern edge of the Green. In those days Tandridge Lane ran straight from the Cage across the face of Tandridge Hall, by the side of Step Arbour and along what is now The Walk. In earlier times still it must have run along and been responsible for cutting the deep gully which stretches from Kings Cottage to Orchard Cottage. The lane was re-routed in 1827 to its present position, taking it nicely away from Tandridge Hall, improving the gradient, and with a width of 30 feet, to include a 4 foot footpath, instead of the old road's narrowest part of 10 feet only.

The first large-scale Ordnance map of 1868 shows a new Court Farmhouse in what is now woodland opposite the northern end of the graveyard, but 50 years later this had completely disappeared and another Court Farm had been built in Jackass Lane (now known as Little Court Farm). Although the vicarage was built in 1846, the school was not erected until 1870, and the map shows an infants' school in Hillside cottages as well as the old school house at Tandridge crossroads. The present building of the Barley Mow public house dates from 1820, and appeared as the largest building in the village street in 1868, when the smithy was also shown. Construction of the golf course was planned in 1924, but within a year of completion, the thatched clubhouse caught fire and burnt down in 1926. Before the golf course was built, however, part of the land was taken up with a cricket ground and pavilion, alongside Tandridge Lane.

Residents near what is now a Channel Tunnel Freight line will be interested to know that this was the country's first main line to Dover, opened in 1842 by the South Eastern Railway Company, and sharing tracks between London and Redhill with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. Dogs, drunks and smokers were banned from the carriages, but other aspects of it were less fastidious and it enjoyed a prosperous business in conveying manure from the horses of London to the hop gardens of Kent. The 1912 map merely describes it as the 'old main line' of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway (Slow, Easy and Comfortable, as it used to be dubbed, perhaps with some irony). The people at Crowhurst Lane End were shown then as being favoured with the alternate benefits of the Brickmakers Arms and also a small Mission Room opposite Park View cottages.

This brief survey from maps and historical sources may most conveniently break off here, in the early years of this century, as subsequent developments can be followed much better and with reliance on living memory in the following pages on One Hundred Years of Parish Council. Two more comments from John Aubrey, however, may be of interest in conclusion; 'at this place the inhabitants are rated at sixpence in the pound' – regrettably no longer so, but we hope that despite motor car and aeroplane, M25 and Gatwick, there still remains a little of 'the delicate, wholesome and sweet air of this part of the country'.

The Brickmakers Arms

100 Years of Parish Council

Parishes date from mediaeval times or earlier and from the 16th to the 18th centuries they were the main units of local government responsible for poor relief, highway maintenance, law and order, as well as their connection with the church. In the 19th century the civil functions were largely taken over by other bodies, and the parish councils arose in their present form under the Local Government Act of 1894 as an elected tier of local government, to represent their communities and to provide services for them as laid down by Parliament. The churches' interests continue to be served by now quite separate Parochial Church Councils.

In 1894, then, the first parish meeting was held on 4th December in the school in order to elect the first Tandridge parish council. It was attended by 42 residents and the first council meeting took place on the 17th December. In addition to meetings of the parish council each parish is obliged to hold an annual meeting for all residents, and until 1948 councillors were elected every three years at these annual parish meetings. Since 1948, however, election has been by ballot-box and for four-year periods.

Originally, the parish of Tandridge included the area of Tillingdown near Caterham, with the ungainly title of Tandridge (detached), as this had been under the same feudal ownership. This situation was rationalized in 1930 when the area was taken over by Caterham and Warlingham Urban District Council against the wishes, it is recorded, of the Parish Meeting that year. In the south, the parish also extended, even though only two fields wide, as far as the centre of Felbridge, but this area, too, was ceded, without objection on this occasion, on the creation of a separate Felbridge Parish Council in 1953.

A prime responsibility of the new council was to supervise the administration of Henry Smith's Charity within the parish. This was founded in 1627 by a rich alderman of the City of London, who was born in Wandsworth and is thought to have been a silversmith. Without direct heirs, he left large sums for the relief of the aged, poor or infirm, provided that they were not excessive drinkers, whoremongers, gamblers, common swearers or vagrants, and his trustees allocated the money to parishes all over England, but principally to parishes in Surrey. Another object of his charity was the relief and ransom of poor men enslaved by Turkish pirates.

The council is responsible for appointing trustees for the portion available in Tandridge, and an account is laid each year before the annual parish meeting. Amounts for distribution were £35 in 1895, £64 in 1965 and £3,200 in 1992, which must make both a favourable comment on investment policy and a sad reflection on the pace of recent inflation. Both the Charity trustees and the parish council made efforts to give

opportunities of occasional employment to men who were out of work in the depression of the 1930s.

An early concern was the extension of the drainage system in the village, to an outfall insalubriously situated at the back of the school. Some repairs were effected in 1906 (at 3d. per hour!) but the school headmistress was still reporting imperfect operation in 1938. The first organized refuse collection by the Godstone Rural District Council took place in 1930, for a limited number of houses – even so there were complaints a year later that the service was irregular.

In 1901, the Council received the gift of fire-fighting equipment from Mr Maximilian Michaelis, who then owned Tandridge Court, consisting of a hand hose-cart to convey six hundred feet of canvas hose and all associated fittings with two best quality copper lamps, to be kept in a shed at The Cage. Hydrant points were to be installed throughout the village, at Newhouse Farm, at Brook Farm and at Mansion House Farm, too, in Crowhurst, which was also owned by Mr Michaelis and must have necessitated a record-breaking run with the hand-cart. The first captain of the Tandridge fire brigade was Mr A. Crowhurst, the village smith, who was succeeded by his son, Mr A.J. Crowhurst for the remainder of the brigade's existence. They were commended for effective handling of a fire at Newhouse Farm in 1930, but in 1931 a proposal to join with Oxted and Limpsfield in the purchase of a motor vehicle was declined. It was, however, admitted that some quicker means of conveyance was desirable. The brigade was finally disbanded in 1940 at the beginning of the Second World War.

In the First World War, part of Tandridge was a camp for army transport, and Gibbs Brook was dammed to give the horses and waggons practice in fording. The whole area between Jackass Lane and the Godstone road was occupied by troops under canvas, and a cinema was built for them at the corner of Barrow Green Road. Searchlights were stationed at Nagshall and probed the sky for zeppelins, and the A25 was regularly used by soldiers marching from Aldershot to Dover. Towards the end of the war, a prominent man living at Rooksnest was fined, it is reported, for hoarding food in war-time, but acquitted of stock-piling golden syrup.

Aerial activity was the dominant feature of the 1939-45 war, when airfields at Kenley and Biggin Hill were enemy targets during the Battle of Britain. Barrage balloons were positioned in Jackass Lane and to the east of the village, and bombs fell in neighbouring fields, breaking many windows, including the west window of the church. The worst air raids occurred in the autumn of 1940 when ten bombs were dropped on Crowhurst Lane End. One fell in the garden of Drewsherne Farm, killing the farmer's wife and a youth who was nearby. A further eighteen bombs at Tandridge Priory damaged the house severely. Tandridge was also on the route of flying bombs, one landing near Lagham Lodge Farm; another near Blackgrove; whilst one that fell in Old Oxted caused extensive

damage there. A certain amount of damage was caused by our own side, too, if account is taken of the accidental burning of Tandridge Hall by Canadian troops who were billeted in the parish. For a time they had an encampment in the school plantation at Tandridge crossroads which was subsequently taken over by the fire service.

From the start, the council has endeavoured to have the quality of road surface maintained. This is not a new situation, and the Tandridge Lane Residents' Association may find a sympathetic echo from a complaint made in 1662 that 'the highway leading from Comforts Place to Tandridge Street has been so out of repair that the king's liege people cannot pass without great danger to their grave nuisance. The inhabitants of Tandridge ought to repair the same . . .'

Footpaths have also received attention, particularly the sidewalk from The Cage to Tandridge crossroads, and at one time the footpath from the Brickmakers Arms to South Godstone, where the station was an important point of transport for the people at Crowhurst Lane End. Even in 1933 there were complaints of horse-riders damaging footpaths, and many old issues remain the same today, especially the parish's continuing struggle to come to terms with increasing motor traffic and speed. This problem was first raised in 1938; went quiet during the war years; but reappeared every year after, culminating in the village finally obtaining a 40 m.p.h. speed limit in 1983. Heavy lorries have also been a problem since 1968 and the volume of fast-driving traffic is still a serious hazard on Tandridge Lane.

After many requests, the parish council was successful in obtaining a bus service through Tandridge in 1947, which gradually dwindled through diminished use and eventually disappeared by 1990, leaving just a Post Bus Service.

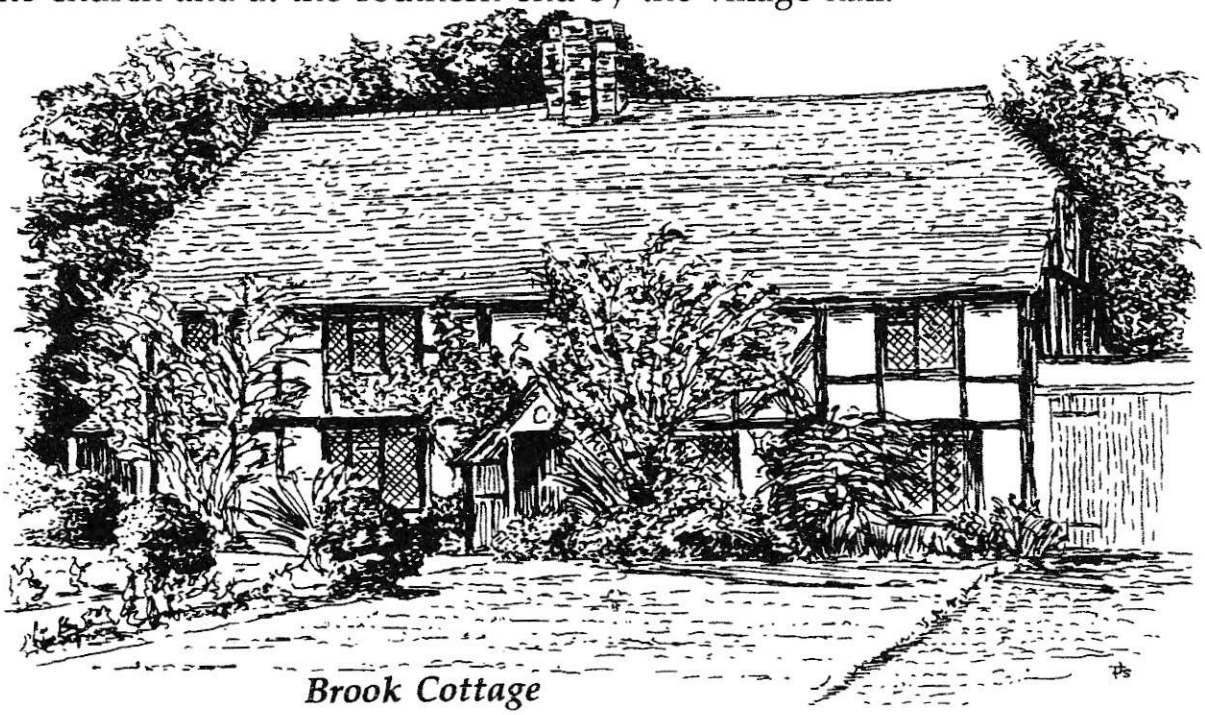
Since 1855 the Tandridge Stores and Post Office was situated in what is now Tall Trees, but closed there in 1952 and moved next door to Tamar Cottage until ceasing to exist in 1974. A similar Post Office and shop at Crowhurst Lane End had closed a few years earlier.

As well as causing these casualties, increased car ownership produced some parking difficulties in the village, including, since 1967, occasional parking on the footpath and parking without lights. The district council provided a car park in 1979 to ease congestion outside the village hall; this proved inadequate to meet the modern need to bring children to school by car, so has now been much enlarged in 1992. The parish council has also tried to improve parking arrangements at the church.

Housing and population figures have long been a concern of the council. In 1811 there were 62 houses and 390 residents in Tandridge (more than in Caterham at that time), but as Tandridge Lane did not follow its present route through the village until 1827, there were then none of the houses that form the village street as it is today. The 1851 census showed 600 residents, which is much the same as the figure of approximately 620 people in 1990, when there were 250 houses in the

parish. Although these figures now seem fairly stable, as far back as 1931 the need was urged to provide more housing to keep younger generations in the village. The houses at Westview were erected in 1926, the first houses at Deanshaw planned in 1942, and the remainder of Deanshaw in 1956. The need for affordable houses continues but the matter is now more complicated by the tightness of Green Belt policy on the one hand and the greater mobility of young people in the search for work on the other.

Street lighting for the village has been discussed from 1935 onwards, but as many prefer darkness to having lamps outside bedroom windows, the only lights provided have been at the northern end of the village by the church and at the southern end by the village hall.



Brook Cottage

The chestnut tree on Flagpole Green was planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937; the monumental plaque on the Hundreds Knoll was put in place in 1966; and rowan and may trees planted on the church green in 1989 and 1993 when the village won awards as the best-kept small village in Surrey. The competition had been entered from 1958 to the late 1960s, when there ceased to be a lengthsman to look after the roads, and a second place was obtained in 1963. Entries resumed in the 80s, since when the village has figured frequently amongst the winners and runners-up.

In the early 60s and again in the mid 80s the council had the responsibility of recruiting a few public-spirited volunteers to organize the framework of civil defence, but happily this no longer appears to be required by the current state of international affairs.

Twice the parish has been in focus for a Channel Tunnel railway. Plans in 1974 would have put the main line either looping close by the side of the village or tunnelling beneath it; the final plans for 1994 will have one

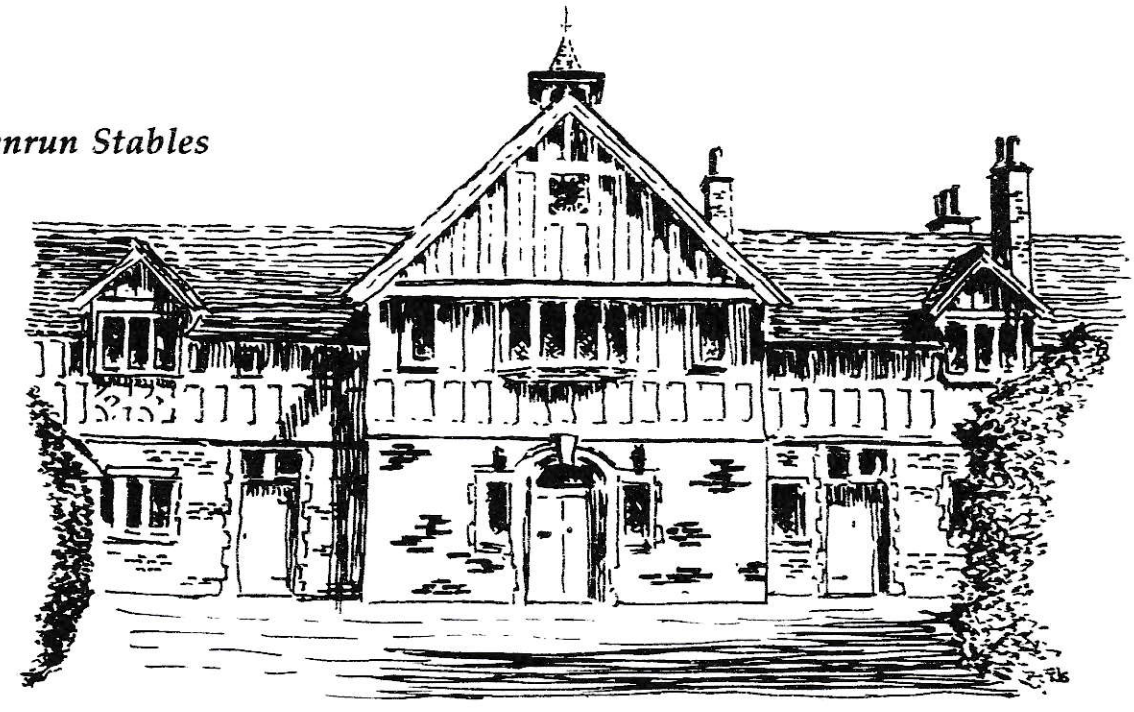
of the freight lines running along Crowhurst Lane End, but with noise barriers – provided as a result of a long campaign by the parish council.

1987 was a difficult year for Tandridge; the October hurricane damaged the landscape severely, cutting off electricity and telephones for two weeks or more, and in November Mrs Joyce Dowsett and Mr Tim George, members of two of the oldest village families, were killed whilst crossing the A25, and plans were proposed for a huge open-cast mine for fuller's earth to the north of the village. Fortunately, a most vigorous protest, in which all residents played their part, was successful in averting this danger, and after a protracted Public Enquiry in 1988, the plans were rejected in 1989.

This issue, especially, served to bring residents together and to strengthen our feeling of identity. In 1994 Tandridge is still one of the smallest parishes in the district, but with an active church, a thriving school and a lively village hall it enjoys a strong community spirit. The recent formation of a residents' association for the part of Tandridge south of the railway has also been most helpful in linking a long parish together, and provides a useful adjunct to parish council work.

For one hundred years the parish council has been elected from the people of Tandridge and has endeavoured to represent and serve their community interests. Other units of local government – the county and district councils will soon be subject to drastic changes, but the parish councils will survive as the essential part of local government having the closest contact with local people and local issues. We look forward to being identified with the needs of the residents of Tandridge for the next hundred years, not necessarily to keep Tandridge unchanged, but to make sure that it remains a pleasant place in which all of us are happy to live.

Ardenrun Stables



Tandridge Schools

A History of St. Peter's Church-of-England School in Tandridge

The school and school-house were built at a cost of £1,070 in 1870, the year of Forster's Education Act which initiated universal elementary education and the 'Schools' comprising both an Infants and a Mixed school began in 1871. Land was made available by the Hampden-Turner family, who were patrons of the church living, and the architect was Mr Basil Champneys of Bloomsbury.

Until the building of separate schools at Beadles Lane, Oxted and Church Lane, Godstone, elementary education in all three villages from 1820 had been catered for by a National School at Tandridge crossroads, 'National' being a sensible abbreviation for 'the National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the established church throughout England and Wales'. The syllabus included spelling books 1 and 2 and instructive tales from Mrs Timmer. The two wings of this school, where boys and girls were taught separately, have disappeared, but the centre part remains as a private house.

Such demarcation of the sexes did not survive in the new school in Tandridge Lane, except in the playgrounds or 'yards', and the basic accommodation was much as in 1993.

The school-house, rented to the Head Teacher for £12 p.a. had no bathroom until 1932, and the early occupants had to use a pail closet adjoining the school. The house was struck by lightning in 1920. The school building consisted of two rooms; a small one for infants, and the schoolroom for all other children who ranged to 14 years of age.

It was to accommodate 102 children from a wide surrounding district and on roll in 1905 were 35 boys, 30 girls and 30 infants. Those who know the building will marvel at the use of space and the skills of the teachers in managing to contain this number.

The schoolroom had a painted dado, distempered walls and a whitewashed ceiling, rarely decorated, and two open fires without fire-guards, and only two ventilated windows. The infants room fared worse with only one tiny window until a new dormer window was put in in 1923. Until then, the inspector reported, 'the room is rather dark at times and space confined for marching.'!! Apparently this room also had an immense gallery, taken down after 1903 as being considered dangerous.

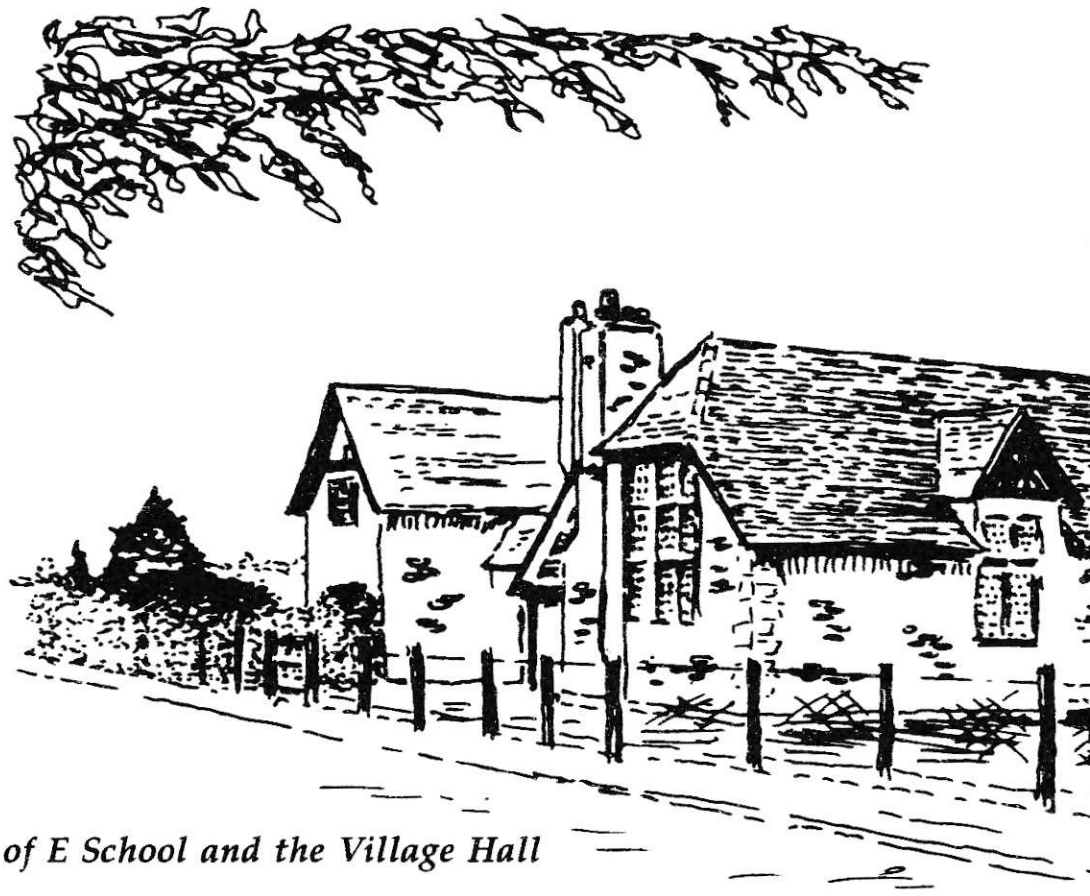
Conditions in the school must have been quite hard by today's standards, but it was the sanitation that seems most alarming. The Inspectors reported in 1904 that there was no water on the premises and recommended suitable lavatory accommodation for the boys (the provision consisted of 1 pail closet for the boys, 3 for the girls, emptied once a week

by a man paid the princely sum of 5/- (25p) a quarter.) The boys' urinals didn't flush and were reported dirty, with effluent draining into the fields. Drainage from cottages in the village also discharged into an open ditch which ran alongside the west side of the playground, but after 1907 the premises were connected to a new drainage system.

Lest you think conditions remained indescribable, the Sanitary Inspector from the Rural District Council found the installations to be clean and in order in 1924. Even so, a physical training session in the playground in the 1930s had to be abandoned 'because of the offensive smell from the sewage works'.

Much respect must be afforded to the successive Head Teachers who have reigned over St. Peter's. From the early records it seems they did more than just teach, and the Inspector in 1904 recorded that 'suitable provision must be made for sweeping and cleaning the school – at present it is done by the teachers'. An early Head was Mr Stanley, assisted by his wife and daughter, from circa 1887 until 1913, and they and their successors coped with some 100 children (aged 5-14) and taught in the mixed class of over 60 children, in Standards I-VII, Reading, Writing, Dictation, Arithmetic, History, Geography, Drawing for the boys, Needlework for the girls, Singing, Recitation and Physical Drill.

Not only did they manage all this, but had to deal with a stream of visitors. It seems as if there was at least one every week; often the Vicar, but regularly it was a Diocesan Inspection, or Government inspectors, the



St. Peter's C of E School and the Village Hall

School Attendance Officer, or the Managers, and respected titled people who came particularly at Christmas and in July.

The school years were long, with only a few days for Christmas and Easter and the odd half-day, but with a longer holiday beginning at the end of August and the children returning in October, subject to the success of the harvest and hop-picking, which was the purpose of the break. Gradually holidays changed and lengthened to become much as they are today.

Although Mr Stanley claimed a marked improvement in discipline when Mrs Stanley assisted him, discipline was recorded as good on the whole apart from odd instances of truancy. Indeed, attendance seemed to pre-occupy the Head Teachers greatly, and is constantly mentioned in the Log Books. Even so there were several occasions when children were absent without permission – at Godstone Fair, the Oxted Agricultural Fair, and even the Flower Show in the parkland immediately opposite the school.

What was noticeable was how many children came and went in the 1900s, and so roll numbers went up and down. Significantly, as the century advanced the rolls became much smaller, and in 1932 several people and a *News Chronicle* reporter came to the school to 'ascertain the numbers of children of agricultural labourers who had attended in the past 30-50 years, and to find some reason for the decrease'.

The greatest effect on attendance in the late 1800s and early 1900s was

the weather, and Log Book quotes were numerous – 'the continual wet weather has lowered the attendance this week', 'there was a heavy fall of snow', 'heavy rain during the night and early morning in flooding the road below Brook Farm, the water being too deep for the children to cross'. It needs to be borne in mind that children had to travel great distances on foot, and Mr Arthur Crowhurst has mentioned how children as young as five walked five miles a day in all kinds of weather.

An equal threat to attendance was illness. In the same early decades there were periods of very low attendance due to epidemics of whooping cough, measles and mumps, and even in later times mumps and chicken pox used to spread quickly through the school. There were cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, when the whole school had to be disinfected, and once two cases of smallpox, when all the children were vaccinated. Children's health became monitored more closely, with regular inspections by a visiting school nurse examining children and excluding cases such as ringworm, impetigo and infestation. The local Care Committee undertook in 1928 to provide cod liver oil and malt to a number of children, and with improvement in health the school began to receive frequent congratulations on 100% attendance.

Miss Dudley, who became Head Teacher in 1913, assisted by her sister, had to oversee the school through troubled times and inevitably the 1914 War affected 'this little country school'. History lessons were suspended to follow the events of the war and children were taken to see the march-past of the troops at the crossroads in 1915, led on horseback by Major Hampden-Turner. Sadly, he was killed in action shortly after, and there is a memorial to him in the chancel of the church.

The Misses Dudley experienced war-time shortages and, after the war, the outbreak of Spanish 'flu, and the effects of the General Strike when coal supplies were cut; but there were happy times and successes, with day-long outings to places like Hastings, and parties at Christmas at Tandridge Hall and in the Institute. The school was congratulated in 1926 on excellent work – 'the children in this somewhat isolated little country school are trained to good habits of orderliness and endeavour'.

Miss Jolly's headship commenced in 1926, and was distinguished by the sporting activities begun for the children including the football matches against Oxted school, which for many years resulted in a drawn game. She introduced a team system of Normans, Saxons, Romans and Britons, and there were outings to London. The children went swimming, boys and girls separately, of course, and the girls travelled to Oxted Practical Centre for cookery, and the boys to Bletchingley's Handicraft Centre. For the first time the children wore hats and caps in navy and pale blue, distinguished with the 'crossed keys'. The school garden, used for gardening lessons, had to have its fencing improved, because rabbits and birds had destroyed the crops several times. A more material improvement was the installation of central heating in 1929, and Smith's Charity arranged for the supply of hot

Horlicks during the winter months.

Miss Palmer arrived in 1932 to carry on Miss Jolly's good work, and she had to steer the school through the Second World War. Before it started there were more happy times with numerous outings and educational slide and film shows in the Institute. The war-time, however, must have been most taxing. Initially, it involved despatching woollies to the armed forces, but in 1940 the school began to be seriously disturbed by air raids and warnings. Children's sleep, it was noted, suffered not only from night air raids but also by the light nights of double summer time. Surprisingly, interruptions were greatest in 1944, towards the end of the war during the period of flying bombs, and a voluntary evacuation took place when Miss Langford accompanied eighteen children to Neath. Another war-time incident was when one of the boys punched Miss Palmer, broke her cane, tore up an arithmetic text-book and used bad language in front of the children.

After the war, normality returned, the playing field was created, prize-giving was organized, and Christmas entertainments and carol services became features every year. Children visited the area from London to see cows being milked, and to look at turkeys, chickens and pigs.

Miss Palmer left in 1963, and Mr Hopkirk, who succeeded her until 1967, wrote that his stay in Tandridge had been the happiest in his life. Under the next Head, Mr Stear, the school took part in musical festivals and concerts, and the whole village was involved with raising funds, by fête and whist drives etc. for a new classroom. A new medical and staff room was also set up. There were 11+ exams, open evenings and activities funded by the Friends of St. Peter's; and further activity and fund-raising took place when the new village hall was built to replace the Institute. The Head was also involved with parents from Chathill on the lack of transport, and he himself was at one time ferrying children back and forth in his car, with Mr Williams helping.

A crisis occurred when the school lost the older children and became limited to 5 to 8+. There was some opposition and concern from parents and the school was in danger of closure. At this point Mr Stear had to resign after illness and was succeeded in 1976 by Mrs Pullar-Strecker under whose leadership the school flourished greatly in reputation and became over-subscribed. The new Head, Mrs Dalziel, taking over in 1992 again faces new challenges with the reduction in age group to 5-7, but with also an expected increase in numbers and an ambitious building programme, which may, as is evident from this history, provide the school for the first time with really satisfactory premises.

The Village Hall

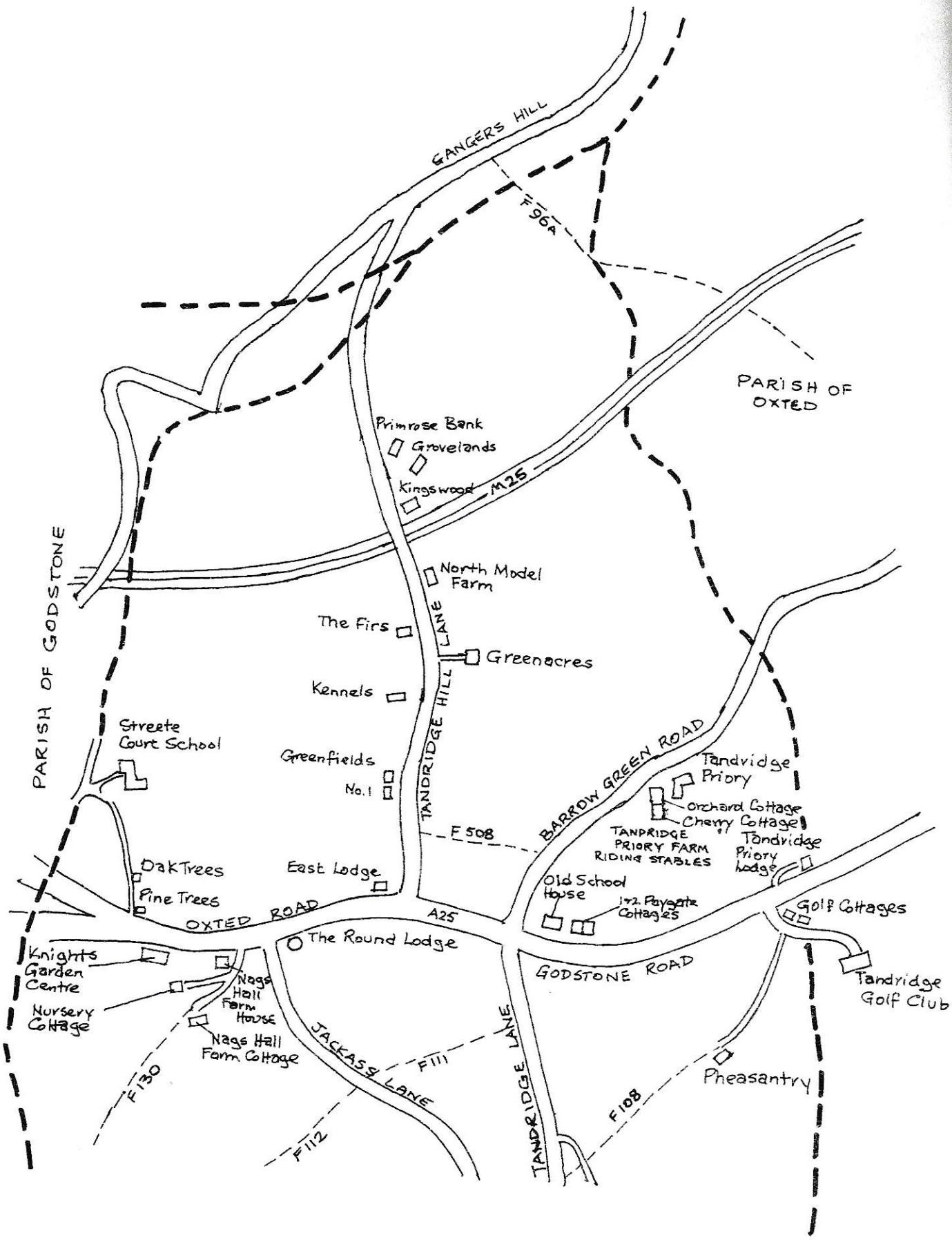
The site of the village hall dates from the same time as the school, and commenced as a young men's club, being originally known as the 'Institute'. The users apparently matured and by 1924 it had become the men's club, but was unable to meet the cost of repairs. At this point the church came to the rescue and took over the running of the Institute, and when the landowners, the Hampden-Turner family, sold all their property in Tandridge in the late 1920s they handed over the deeds of the Institute to the church.

The Institute continued for years to be a centre of social life in Tandridge, but by 1972 repairs were again a mounting problem and it was decided to build a new hall – not without some misgivings regarding the cost of over £23,000. One objector to rebuilding considered the project too grandiose for Tandridge, another thought the cost of building might be lower in 5 years' time; yet another would have preferred to use the money for the relief of world famine. At that time the Institute could be hired for a whole evening for 50p, or 25p for half an evening.

Funds were provided in many ways, mainly from church sources including legacies but also from fêtes in Tandridge Court each year from 1973-76, by voluntary loans and by a whole host of social functions. The new hall was opened on 23rd November, 1974 with a Christmas bazaar and a dance, and all the debt had been cleared off by 1980.

When the new hall was first proposed it was hoped that the District Council would convert the site of the old sewage bed behind the hall into a car park for 50 cars. This took somewhat longer than expected but was finally achieved in 1992 on the initiative of the Parish Council and with some generous help from Cairn Energy plc, which operates the oil wells in Tandridge.

Although the hall is owned by the church and registered as St. Peter's Hall, the former vicar, the Reverend Dennis Lane, who promoted the new building and followed it to completion, was insistent that it should be known as Tandridge Village Hall and available for the benefit of the whole community. All of us who use it should be grateful for his foresight.


GANGERS HILL
F96A
PARISH OF OXTED
Primrose Bank
Grovelands
Kingswood
M25
PARISH OF GODSTONE
North Model Farm
The Firs
Greenacres
TANDRIDGE HILL LANE
Kennels
Streete Court School
Greenfields
No.1
BARROW GREEN ROAD
Tandridge Priory
Orchard Cottage
Cherry Cottage
TANPRIDGE PRIORY FARM RIDING STABLES
Tandridge Priory Lodge
F508
Oak Trees
Pine Trees
East Lodge
OXTED ROAD
A25
Old School House
1+2 Paygate Cottages
Golf Cottages
The Round Lodge
Knights Garden Centre
Nursery Cottage
Nags Hall Farm House
Nags Hall Farm Cottage
GODSTONE ROAD
Tandridge Golf Club
JACKASS LANE
F111
F130
F112
TANDRIDGE LANE
F108
Pheasantry

The Paths and Houses

Ordnance Survey Pathfinder maps 1207 and 1227
cover all the footpaths in this booklet

Footpath No. 96A starts at the crest of the North Downs, at the side of the woodland next to the field on Gangers Hill. It descends to join Hogtrough Lane which comes out next to Barrow Green Farm on Barrow Green Road. In connection with Tandridge Lane it forms a good walk to the top of the Downs and back, but passes through a patch of sticky clay on the lower slopes. The view is impressive.

Footpath No. 508 runs along the back of the field by the A25 between Barrow Green Road and Tandridge Hill Lane, and can be used to cut out the A25 at this point.

Footpath No. 111 commences at the gate some 200 yards south of Tandridge crossroads, then runs along the fence, across the avenue of trees (which is not a right of way) and over the next field to the Scots pine at the highest point of Jackass Lane, which is also the commencement of footpath no. 112.

Footpath No. 112 starts at the highest point of Jackass Lane and follows the hedge westwards for 220 yards after which it strikes diagonally due south-west across the field to the corner of Castlehill Wood and bridleway no. 134. There are splendid views to the south, but as this path passes through ploughed land or growing crops it has often been indistinct.

Footpath No. 130 goes by the side of Nagshall Farm, through the gate to Nagshall Farm Cottage, then down through the field to run finally alongside the Godstone by-pass, joining bridleway no. 134 at Hop Garden Cottage.

Footpath No. 108 is a well-used footroute to Oxted, commencing by the northern end of the churchyard and crossing Tandridge Court driveway to climb through the paddock and over the golf course. By the side of the Pheasantry the route follows the roadway and finally slips through the hedge on join ing the A25.

Bridleway No. 134 starts opposite Little Court Farm and after eventually meeting footpath 112, descends to Hopgarden Cottage. Together with footpath no. 113 it provides a pleasant round walk from Tandridge to the Leigh Mill/Leigh Place ponds and to Godstone church. Good shoes/boots advisable in wet conditions.

Footpath No. 113 commences from 1 Dean Shaw Cottage westwards through the cutting of Dean Shaw which consists mainly of elm saplings struggling after the outbreak of Dutch Elm disease which destroyed all of the mature specimens in this woodland. Has good views on your north side. Make for brow of hill known as Sandy Barns. Old Park Wood is to your right and continues with splendid views south, crossing the Parish boundary to the gate before crossing the A22.

Footpath No. 226 starts 100 yards south of the school by the village sign, over the stile and then down a good path to Gibbs Brook. Continue with the hedge on your right side by good farmland. The next stile has steps which could be difficult. Then south-west to a stile and the path continues to Wonham. Attractive farmland and woods, mainly oak and ash. A very pleasant walk.

Footpath No. 236 starts between footpath no. 226 and the Cage. Westward into open farmland keeping north side of Shaw. Continue to the bridge over Gibbs Brook, continue straight ahead alongside Stow Coppice. Oaks are the main trees in this area, and good mixed undergrowth. You reach the stile and gate, follow westward to a stile then south on to a metalled road joining Miles Lane. A pleasing walk but the approach to Gibbs Brook is made difficult by the hurricane damaged trees and it will be rather muddy in winter by the bridge.

Footpath No. 247 is an extension of footpath no. 236 starting a few yards along Miles Lane to the east and soon crossing the Parish boundary and continuing beside the wood to the main A22 Eastbourne road.

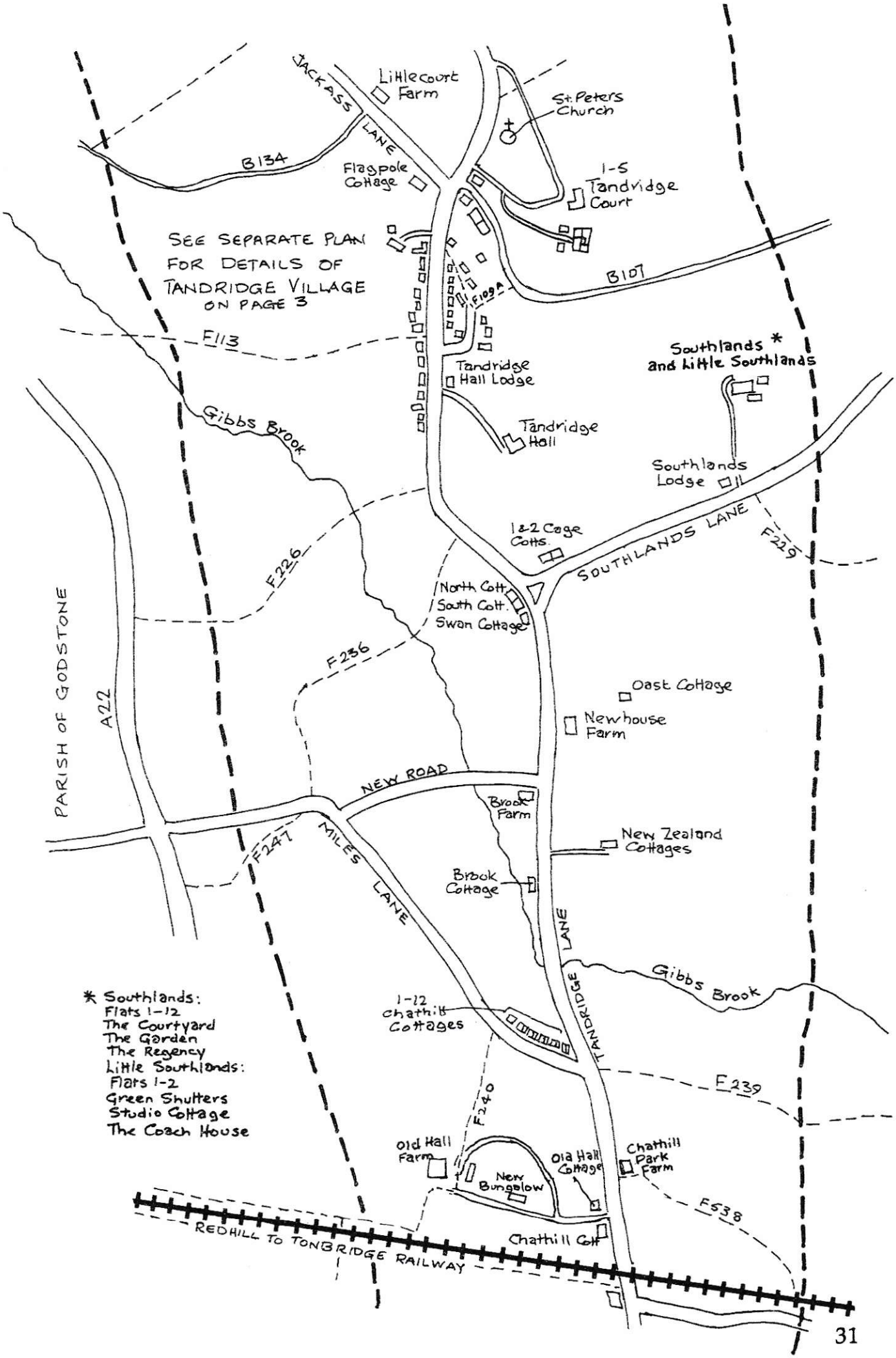
Footpath No. 107 is one of the most ancient trackways in Tandridge and commences at the south side of Tandridge Court Lodge, passing by Tandridge Court Farm also. This route is well-used, having pleasant views to the south and leading to Broadham Green.

Footpath No. 109 (The Walk) heads south east from Fern Cottage (No. 1 The Walk) along a narrow cobbled path past a row of cottages with views of the main village street to the west. Immediately past the 'modern' garage block to the south of Beech Cottage path 109A turns sharp left up a narrow slippery track to a wooden stile and then across the fields bearing slightly north to join bridleway no. 107 at an old metal kissing gate by a trough. The path can also be joined from the south along The Walk behind the Barley Mow. Both FT 113 and 109A form part of the Greensand Way a long-distance path.

Footpath No. 229 starts opposite Southlands Lodge. South east through woodland on a nice broad track. It has a good covering of bracken either side and continues to a stile and the Parish boundary. Then follow to Rose Farm.

Footpath No. 239 starts at the field opposite the junction of Miles Lane and Tandridge Lane and continues east across open fields and beyond farm buildings, crossing the Parish boundary and on to Gibbs Brook Lane. The path crosses the lane and continues to Foyle Farm and eventually to Merle Common.

Footpath No. 538 starts at Chathill Park Farm and runs from the stile at the end of the farm track south-easterly past two ponds and very soon to the railway line, and across to Crowhurst Lane End. A continuation of the walk is made by either turning right along the lane and joining footpath no. 242 or turning left for two hundred yards and just past a barn on the right, following the footpath signs across two fields in a south-easterly direction and up to Crowhurst Church from which a path leads easterly


JACKASS LANE
Littlecourt Farm
St. Peters Church
B134
Flagpole Cottage
1-5 Tandridge Court
SEE SEPARATE PLAN FOR DETAILS OF TANDRIDGE VILLAGE ON PAGE 3
B107
F109A
F113
Tandridge Hall Lodge
Southlands * and Little Southlands
Gibbs Brook
Tandridge Hall
Southlands Lodge
1&2 Cage Cotts.
SOUTHLANDS LANE
F229
F226
North Cott.
South Cott.
Swan Cottage
PARISH OF GODSTONE
A22
F236
Oast Cottage
Newhouse Farm
NEW ROAD
Brook Farm
New Zealand Cottages
F247
MILES LANE
Brook Cottage
TANDRIDGE LANE
Gibbs Brook
1-12 Chathill Cottages
F239
F240
Old Hall Farm
New Bungalow
Old Hall Cottage
Chathill Park Farm
F538
Chathill Cott
REDHILL TO TONBRIDGE RAILWAY
* Southlands:
Flats 1-12
The Courtyard
The Garden
The Regency
Little Southlands:
Flats 1-2
Green Shutters
Studio Cottage
The Coach House

from Mansion House Farm towards Edenbridge or westerly to join a track through Ashen Plantation. Alternatively, continue south through well signed footpath across fields eventually to join the footpath up to Crowhurst Place.

Footpath No. 240 runs from a bend on bridleway no. 245 north across open fields and follows a line of trees to join footpath no. 246 by the side of the railway line and adjacent to a stile and the culvert under the railway. At this point a useful extension to make a round walk is footpath no. 246A which intersects with footpaths nos. 246 and 240 and continues south-westerly to Lagham Manor and from there the walk follows the bridleway and footpath no. 245 back to Tandridge Lane or alternatively, turn right and join the A22 and then retrace by way of footpath no. 246 which starts at the railway bridge at South Godstone. Footpath no. 240 continues from the intersection with footpath no. 246 by the railway culvert, under the railway and immediately right between the wire fences and alongside the railway to a stile beside a pond and then for a few yards to a hedge and left up the field, leaving the hedge to your right, to a farm gate. Through the gate and on the left you will see another gate and the footpath leads through Old Hall Farm leaving the farm on your left and the farm buildings to your right and slightly diagonally left to a footbridge and stile. Keep straight ahead and across a field of poplars keeping the hedge close on your left, across another stile and uphill to the left corner of the field to the short track into Miles Lane just to the right of Chathill Cottages.

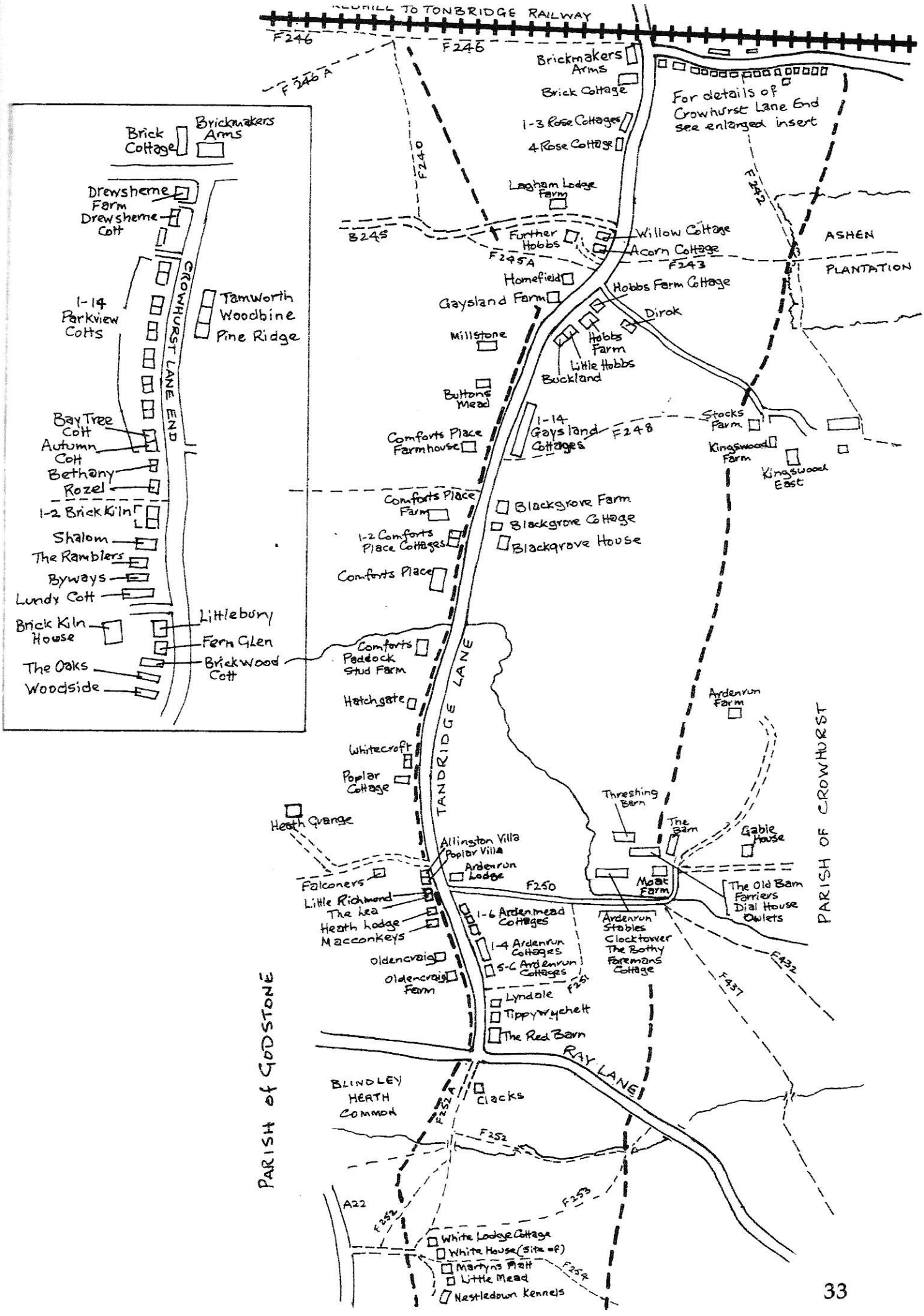
Footpath No. 245A runs from opposite the entrance to Stocks Farm track through a wood which is densely overgrown, to a stile and then continues up a slight rise to join footpath no. 245. This is not a particularly pleasant path and it is advisable to use the bridle path beside Willow Cottage which is the start of bridleway no. 245.

Bridleway No. 245 starts beside Willow Cottage and leads up to Lagham Lodge Farm and continues west across mostly open fields to Lagham Manor and the A22 from where, by turning right at the main road for a few yards, it is possible to follow the footpath no. 246 in an easterly direction alongside the railway line for about a mile back to the Brickmakers Arms in Tandridge Lane.

Footpath No. 246 runs from Tandridge Lane immediately beside the Brickmakers Arms following the railway Line for a mile to the main A22 road at South Godstone. Mostly open fields but with some overgrown parts through light wooded areas. The path meets footpath no. 240 by the culvert passing under the railway line and which continues in a northerly direction to Oldhall Farm and in a southerly direction to bridleway 245. At the intersection with footpath 240, footpath 246A takes a southwesterly direction across open fields to Lagham Manor.

Footpath No. 242 starts between Rozel and 1 Brick Kiln in Crowhurst Land End and leads to open fields with a well defined path. Continue to the top of the third field left over a stile into Ashen Plantation and turn immediately right through the wood. On reaching the next stile, cross the meadow to the top left corner and continue to the right of farm buildings to the farm track. Turn east down the track for about four hundred yards and then across the field, well signposted in a diagonal direction south-east to a bridge and across two fields to the crest of the rise at Crowhurst Place. From there, there is a choice of either continuing through the marked footpath by the orchard of Crowhurst Place and eventually to Ardenrun or turning left and coming out into the lane next to the Lodge of Crowhurst Place.

Footpath No. 243 leads up the field from Tandridge Lane opposite Acorn Cottage and slightly south, to the wood marking the edge of Ashen Plantation and where it joins footpath no. 242.


REDHILL TO TONBRIDGE RAILWAY
F246
F246
F246A
Brickmakers Arms
Brick Cottage
1-3 Rose Cottages
4 Rose Cottage
For details of Crowhurst Lane End see enlarged insert
F240
Langham Lodge Farm
B245
Further Hobbs
F245A
Willow Cottage
Acorn Cottage
F243
F242
ASHEN
PLANTATION
Homefield
Gaysland Farm
Hobbs Farm Cottage
Dirok
Millstone
Hobbs Farm
Little Hobbs
Buckland
Buttons Mead
Stocks Farm
1-14 Gaysland Cottages
F248
Comforts Place Farmhouse
Kingswood Farm
Kingswood East
Comforts Place Farm
Blackgrove Farm
Blackgrove Cottage
Blackgrove House
1-2 Comforts Place Cottages
Comforts Place
Comforts Paddock Stud Farm
TANDRIDGE LANE
Hatchgate
Whitecroft
Poplar Cottage
Ardenrun Farm
Threshing Barn
The Barn
Gable House
Heath Grange
Allington Villa
Poplar Villa
Ardenrun Lodge
Falconers
Little Richmond
The Lea
Heath Lodge
Macconkeys
F250
Moat Farm
The Old Barn
Farriers
Dial House
Owlets
1-6 Ardenmead Cottages
1-4 Ardenrun Cottages
5-6 Ardenrun Cottages
Ardenrun Stables
Clocktower
The Bothy
Foremans Cottage
F432
F437
Oldencraig
Oldencraig Farm
F251
Lyndale
Tippywychelt
The Red Barn
RAY LANE
BLINDLEY HEATH COMMON
Clacks
F252A
F252
F253
A22
F252
White Lodge Cottage
White House (site of)
Martyns Platt
Little Mead
Nestledown Kennels
F254
PARISH of GODSTONE
PARISH OF CROWHURST
Drewsherne Farm
Drewsherne Cott
CROWHURST LANE END
1-14 Parkview Cotts
Tamworth
Woodbine
Pine Ridge
Bay Tree Cott
Autumn Cott
Bethany
Rozel
1-2 Brick Kiln
Shalom
The Ramblers
Byways
Lundy Cott
Brick Kiln House
Littlebury
Fern Glen
Brickwood Cott
The Oaks
Woodside

Footpath No. 248 starts in Tandridge Lane beside the southern end of Gaysland Cottages and crosses a stile and then open fields slightly uphill for about half a mile to the farm track at Stocks Farm from where it follows the track easterly to join up with footpath no. 242 by the row of cottages and the farm buildings.

Footpath No. 250 starts on the east side of Tandridge Lane, ¼ mile north of the Red Barn and has a metalled surface as far as Ardenrun. Passing Moat Farm and lake on the left, the path leaves the Parish continuing east to Crowhurst. At Moat Farm, footpaths nos. 437 and 432 diverge to the south and south east respectively leading to Lingfield Common Road. Halfway along the metalled stretch of footpath no. 250 there is a marked footpath no. 251 running due south across open fields. This returns to Tandridge Lane opposite Oldencraig Farm.

Footpath No. 252A starts at the bottom of Tandridge Lane opposite its junction with Ray Lane and goes south to the concrete bridge over the Ray Brook, where it meets footpath no. 252. The first section serves a cottage and has a hard surface.

Footpath No. 252 goes east/south west from 252A. Going east it follows the north bank of Ray Brook, crosses the Brook on a concrete bridge to follow the south bank to meet footpath no. 253 on the eastern boundary of the Parish. Going south-west it (and other paths) cross the common (see later). At its southern end in Godstone Parish, footpath 252 can be picked up between the Eastbourne road and the White House (its present day route is somewhat to the east of the route shown on most maps). It provides a walk meandering northwards across the middle of Blindley Heath Common to enter the Parish and meet footpaths 252A/252 by the concrete bridge over the Ray Brook. Other (unnumbered) paths which cross the common all meet at this point.

Footpath No. 253 goes north/south from the eastern end of 252. Going north it recrosses the Ray Brook and after a few yards comes out onto Ray Lane. A pleasant walk over fields is found by going south and then south west following footpath no. 253 back to Blindley Heath Common, crossing the southern end of the common (and an unnumbered footpath running north/south over the common from Ray Brook Bridge) and skirting round the site of the White House (a demolished hotel) and White Lodge Cottage to join footpath no. 254.

Footpath No. 254 starts (just outside the Parish) on the Eastbourne road opposite Hare Lane and goes due east with a hard surface to serve properties near the White House. Here the path goes south at first with a hard surface and then south east across grazing fields following the southern Parish boundary and continuing towards Pond Farm, Ray Corner and Lingfield.

All the paths which cross Blindley Heath Common are inclined to be boggy, especially those regularly used by horses, but the area is full of interest for naturalists, and a relatively undisturbed wilderness.

Acknowledgements and Sources

Our thanks are due to all those residents with long memories who have provided so much personal recollection from the earlier years of this century - especially Mrs Margaret Collins, Mrs Frances Pearson (née Hampden-Turner), Mrs Gladys Locke (née Crowhurst), and Mr Geoffrey Cook. We are indebted also to Sir David Burnett, Bt., to Mrs E.H. Everington (née Andreae) and to Mr Harold Locke for other material, and particularly to Miss Dorothy Tutt, President of The Bourne Society, for advising on all the historical accounts.

The Oxted Public Library has an excellent collection of works on local history with much more information relating to Tandridge than it has been possible to contain in this booklet: major sources consulted include:-

Domesday Book
History of Surrey - John Aubrey
The Histories and Antiquities of the County of Surrey - Manning and Bray
History of Surrey - Brayley and Britton
Victoria History of the County of Surrey
Surrey Archaeological Collections
Surrey Records - Sessions Order Book and Rolls 1661-1666
The Place Names of Surrey - English Place Name Society
Census Records
Dictionary of National Biography
Tandridge Priory and the Austin Canons - Major Alfred Heales
Notes on the Tandridge Hundred - Uvedale Lambert
Short History of Tandridge - A. Fitzgerald Uniacke
Publications of The Bourne Society
South Eastern Railway - Adrian Gray
Listed Buildings - Department of the Environment - 1984
Estate and Ordnance Survey maps
Surrey Record Office, with the assistance of Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker
Parish Council and Parochial Church Council records

Finally, we are very grateful to:-

Mrs Gloria Glen, for writing the history of our schools

Mrs Vaughan, for permission to make use of some earlier sketch maps

Mr Derek Patch of the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service, for advice on the age of the yew tree.

Cairn Energy and all other sponsors, for generous financial assistance

and Mr Trevor Spooner, who not only drew all the illustrations, but also prepared all the material for publication.